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Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 3 October 2017, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Jürgenson ..... (Estonia)
later: Ms. Louis ..... (Saint Lucia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Bolaji** (Nigeria) said that his country's National Policy on Population for Sustainable Development had been aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as with Agenda 2063 of the African Union. It addressed issues of women and girls in the areas of health, education and elimination of violence and emphasized improved standards of living for all Nigerians.

2. Leaving no one behind would require concrete and viable partnerships. Nigeria hoped to see actual implementation of the New Urban Agenda under a reinvigorated United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) with capable leadership that would serve both developed and developing countries. Nigeria was among the countries feeling the effects of desertification. Notably, Lake Chad had shrunk to 10 per cent of its original size over the previous few decades, fuelling large-scale migration and conflict. His Government had put in place policies for protecting the environment, combating drought and desertification, and responding to climate change. He called on the international community to implement the relevant conventions, including the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and General Assembly resolution 71/219 on combating sand and dust storms.

3. In June 2017, his country — in cooperation with Norway and development organizations — had hosted a conference to advance the goals of General Assembly resolution 71/213 on the promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development. His delegation urged Member States to update and implement that resolution with a view to enhancing deterrence and facilitating asset recovery. For its part, Nigeria was making efforts to reduce the cost and time of doing business.

4. Regional and multilateral efforts must be fully harnessed to promote all sources of development finance and ensure synergy between financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development. The free flow of private investment, both foreign and domestic, was both beneficial for national economies and vital to sustainable development. Recognizing the importance of transparency, his delegation called for a just and fair international financial system that took due account of the particular needs of developing countries.

5. **Ms. Martinic** (Argentina) said that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions was an objective that coincided with the national Zero Poverty goal that her Government had set for Argentina. Inclusive education, decent work and human rights were at the heart of her country's sustainable development strategy.

6. Argentina would be hosting the fourth Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour in November 2017. According to the International Labour Organization, over 151 million children aged five to 17 were victims of child labour — of whom 72 million were doing dangerous work. Member States were urged to participate actively in the Conference in order to generate the political momentum needed to ensure that child labour was eradicated within the time frame established by the 2030 Agenda.

7. The first Group of 20 summit ever to take place in South America, to be hosted by Argentina in 2018, would be an opportunity for her country to present a Southern perspective and for participants to focus on issues that affected developing countries. The eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was also to take place in Argentina, in December 2017; it was vital that the Conference should reaffirm the role of WTO as the cornerstone of the multilateral trade system. In 2019 her country was to host the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, a sign of her Government's commitment to South-South and triangular cooperation.

8. **Mr. Méndez Graterol** (Venezuela) said that a global multilateral trade system that included differentiated treatment and was based on solidarity, cooperation, complementarity and respect for peoples' sovereignty was needed if concrete outcomes were to be achieved under the 2030 Agenda. Development financing must be predicated on the understanding that there was no one-size-fits-all model, and that Member States had a fundamental role to play in defining their national priorities. In that connection, his Government continued to do its utmost to include communities, organized popular movements and other stakeholders in its national efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality. States' sovereign control over their natural resources was vital for their economic and social development.

9. Venezuela rejected the unilateral imposition of economic, financial or commercial measures that

impinged on States' right of self-determination and threatened their sovereignty. Such measures were not only incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, they also impeded social and economic development, particularly in the countries of the South. Countries and peoples living under foreign and colonial occupation likewise faced obstacles that damaged national economies and jeopardized the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

10. Multilateral responses to climate change were critical. His Government had reaffirmed its commitment to combating global warming by depositing its instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement. Venezuela had been on the front line in the relief efforts in the aftermath of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

11. Venezuela promoted regional and international integration efforts designed to create a people-centred, development-oriented "knowledge society". Regional and global cooperation should support national technological capacity-building and the development of regional technology strategies.

12. **Ms. Baus** (Croatia) said that coordination among Governments and other stakeholders would be crucial for addressing priorities and yielding results in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Her country would do its best to contribute to a new European development policy. As a country with a long and proud maritime heritage, Croatia welcomed the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

13. Given their interrelatedness, climate and environmental challenges would demand a robust application of the principle of common and shared responsibility. As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, her country would remain committed to innovations, technologies and products that helped confront the challenges posed by climate change.

14. The adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) reflected the commitment of the international community to a new global strategy for urban development. Croatia's Physical Planning Strategy and Programme paid particular attention to the development of cities for all generations, with a view to mitigating the drain of young people and stimulating demographic recovery. She was pleased that Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals would be a focus of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018, with a view to making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

15. **Ms. Abdulmohsen** (Bahrain) said that her country had largely achieved the Millennium Development Goals, and was determined to reproduce that success with the Sustainable Development Goals. It had taken a number of steps to harmonize its national economic plan and development strategy with the Goals. In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office in Manama, her Government had drafted a country programme document for 2017–2020 that set out strategies for people with disabilities, children and older persons, and had also created a Sustainable Energy Unit to move the country towards renewable and diversified energy sources that would both help to combat global warming and promote economic growth.

16. Bahrain had launched numerous initiatives to support the 2030 Agenda. At the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum held at United Nations Headquarters in January 2017, Bahrain had inaugurated the King Hamad Award, which was intended to encourage youth participation in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It had also launched the Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifah Award for Women's Empowerment. In April 2017, Bahrain had hosted the ninth International Youth Conference, which had brought together over 1,000 young people and officials from Governments and international organizations to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals.

17. **Mr. Mundanda** (Zambia) said that despite some economic growth, Zambia continued to grapple with high poverty levels, especially in rural areas. His country had a national poverty rate of 54.4 per cent. The most recent national development plan sought to address that issue, including through the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as key contributors to both economic and social development.

18. Efforts were needed to improve the share of international trade and market access for developing countries such as his own, including intraregional trade, especially among African countries, in line with Agenda 2063. A universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive and non-discriminatory international trading system must be established, as agreed upon in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Preferential market access and technology transfer were

essential to improving both agricultural and industrial productivity, and to making the economy less dependent on commodity exports.

19. The international financial system had a critical role to play in helping developing countries to manage debt and finance development. His country was committed to keeping its external debt sustainable. More diversified sources of external financing, an increase in official development assistance (ODA) and effective mechanisms to address illicit financial flows were particularly crucial for Africa.

20. *Mr. Louis (Saint Lucia) took the Chair.*

21. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that as the Secretary-General's reform agenda moved forward, it was important for the Committee to maintain its focus on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Regional and international cooperation, as well as partnerships with the private sector, academia and civil society, were critical to mobilizing investments for socially and environmentally impactful projects. The international financial system and the United Nations development system needed to pay adequate attention to middle-income countries. As a landlocked developing country, Armenia particularly stressed the need for transit corridors to enhance trade, connectivity, mobility and tourism.

22. In March 2017, her country had hosted the very first summit on impact investment for development, in partnership with UNDP and the social impact initiative of the European Institute of Business Administration. Armenia was setting up institutional frameworks to harmonize its national priorities and strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals. As a partnership between the Prime Minister's office and the UNDP country team, it had set up a Sustainable Development Goals Innovation Lab, which had been provided with recommendations by a recent mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support mission from UNDP.

23. Her delegation commended the work of the Statistical Commission and welcomed the adoption of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, of which Armenia was a member. The United Nations regional commissions had a role to play in building national capacities for data collection. Within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, her country had been actively involved in the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, whose annual meeting was scheduled to take place in Yerevan the following week.

24. **Mr. Kafle** (Nepal) said that ongoing efforts to reposition the United Nations development system should pay special attention to landlocked or sealocked least developed countries, which were among the world's neediest. The experience of Nepal with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had taught it that the challenge lay in implementation.

25. Peace, security and prosperity would remain out of reach as long as poverty persisted. Inequality of opportunity was not only morally unsound, but also economically inefficient and socially destabilizing. Both the opportunities and the benefits of globalization needed to be more inclusive. He stressed the need to implement the Paris Agreement, with an emphasis of climate justice based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Climate finance should be made accessible to the neediest countries.

26. His country's immediate priority was graduation from least developed country status. He underscored the importance of a smooth and sustainable graduation process as envisaged by the 2014 Kathmandu Declaration of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation by ensuring enhanced, predictable and continued international support. As it prepared for elections in the wake of a successful peace process, Nepal would spare no effort to accelerate its socioeconomic transformation. Robust follow-up and tapping the full potential of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation would be essential to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

27. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) said that the 2030 Agenda needed to be implemented in a balanced and integrated manner. He appealed to all development partners to provide adequate and predictable financial resources, targeted capacity-building support and transfer of technology to developing countries. At the same time, he stressed the importance of national ownership and respect for each country's policy space.

28. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda had identified domestic resource mobilization as central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. That required an enabling international environment that included a coherent, mutually supportive, stable and non-discriminatory fiscal, monetary and trading system; strengthened and enhanced global economic governance; and sustainable debt restructuring mechanisms. Developing countries needed support to build institutional capacities for tax administration. However, he stressed that domestic resource mobilization should not be used an excuse to evade ODA commitments.

29. Addressing global trade imbalances and inequalities required a speedy conclusion to the Doha Round negotiations. He hoped that the eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled for December 2017 would achieve a positive outcome. The existing international tax system worked to the advantage of a few wealthy countries. The United Nations was the only universal forum for discussing international tax issues. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be upgraded into an intergovernmental body to ensure that it received adequate resources, and should involve more experts from developing countries in its work. He urged development partners to provide support to Member States to strengthen their capacities to combat illicit financial flows.

30. **Mr. Annakou** (Libya) said that efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda should pay special attention to countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, especially in Africa and the Middle East. Countries such as his own would not be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the absence of security and stability. In his country, instability had led to increases in illegal migration, organized crime and human trafficking. Transit countries should not be held solely responsible for illegal migration, which needed to be addressed by development efforts in the countries of origin with assistance from the countries of destination.

31. His country was also one of those that had seen its assets smuggled abroad. The countries where smuggled assets ended up should not allow themselves to become safe havens, but rather should help to find and return stolen assets so that they could be used to finance development and infrastructure. He called for a global anti-smuggling mechanism to be set up by the United Nations in cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

32. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/124-E/2018/3). The United Nations development system needed to move beyond merely putting out fires to a more proactive approach that focused on crisis prevention rather than crisis management. The path to sustainable peace ran through sustainable development. United Nations agencies should coordinate their efforts to avoid duplication of effort, and should aim for equitable geographic representation in all appointments.

33. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan) said that despite the challenges his country faced by virtue of being in the forefront of the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, Afghanistan was fully committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda; his Government was engaging local communities in the process of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and had streamlined the Goals into its National Peace and Development Framework.

34. Countries in conflict and post-conflict situations faced unique challenges in achieving sustainable development, since conflict not only impeded but actually reversed decades of development. The least developed countries, constituting one quarter of the membership of the United Nations, remained far below many of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The success of the 2030 Agenda would therefore depend on the progress those countries would make in the next 13 years. In order to facilitate the integration of the landlocked developing countries into the global economy it would be vital to address the high trade costs they faced, as well as their infrastructure deficits in transportation, information and communications technology and energy.

35. His delegation reiterated the critical importance of ODA for least developed countries and landlocked developing countries and called upon all development partners to allocate at least 50 per cent of their ODA to least developed countries. In that context, he welcomed the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and called on development partners to mobilize resources for its effective functioning; science, technology and innovation could be game-changing tools for advancing development in the least developed countries.

36. Welcoming the follow-up process to the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review he said that it was crucial to shape a United Nations development system in which the nexus between peace and development was strengthened.

37. **Mr. Bultrikov** (Kazakhstan) said that while visions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals were expanding, budgets were shrinking. Greater progress was needed in combating extreme poverty, disparities of opportunity, gender inequality and youth unemployment. His country's recently announced Third Stage of Modernization programme was in line with the 2030 Agenda, with an emphasis on technological modernization as well as an improved business environment, economic productivity, human development and institutional reforms. As the world's largest landlocked country, Kazakhstan was making efforts to upgrade its transportation and pipeline infrastructure, notably in cooperation with China.

38. Despite its abundant conventional energy resources, Kazakhstan was committed to developing a green economy by diversifying and developing alternative energy sources. It had chosen the theme of "Future Energy" for the Expo-2017 international exhibition hosted in Astana in the summer of 2017. With the support of five United Nations agencies, it was establishing the International Centre for Green Technologies and Investment Projects. In the aftermath of Expo-2017, it had also established the Astana International Financial Centre and an IT start-up centre.

39. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's efforts to revitalize the work of the Organization and optimize service delivery. In that regard, Kazakhstan was working to establish a United Nations regional hub for diplomacy in Almaty, which would focus on sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

40. **Mr. Giorgio** (Eritrea) said that as implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals entered its second year, realignment of policy frameworks, mobilization of human and financial resources and an enabling international economic environment would all be crucial. Human capital was the single most important source of growth. With that in mind, his country's development strategy included free education from kindergarten to the tertiary level, as well as free skills development and vocational training. It focused on creating youth employment opportunities, promoting investment, expanding the tax base and eliminating corruption. Mining sector revenues were being invested in water conservation, infrastructure, agriculture and rural development. Although located in a region threatened by drought, desertification and climate change, Eritrea had made great strides towards food security through a major water and soil conservation scheme that had more than tripled harvest yields in some areas by means of strategically distributed irrigation projects.

41. Domestic resource mobilization needed to be supplemented by foreign investment. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to discuss investment promotion regimes for least developed countries at its next forum on financing for development. His delegation underscored the nexus between peace and development.

42. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that the persistent global economic slowdown and recent natural disasters were highly challenging for small, vulnerable and highly indebted economies such as its own. However, the 2030 Agenda was a roadmap that would lead to better outcomes, especially with good governance and rapid economic growth.

43. An enormous pool of capital would have to be mobilized to implement the Sustainable Development Goals; it was clear that traditional approaches to financing development would be insufficient. While ODA would remain a critical component of financing, it was nowhere near sufficient; only about one half of it was available for spending on development after spending on other items such as humanitarian and disaster relief, technical assistance, cultural exchanges and other government-related activities. Furthermore, many middle-income countries, including Jamaica, had lost access to concessional financing windows by graduating from least developed country status.

44. The most stable source of financing for development over the long term was domestic resources, mobilized through the collection of taxes and other public revenue sources, yet such financing would have to be substantially increased for the Goals to be achieved. The problem was exacerbated by the capacity challenges faced by low-income countries in collecting taxes.

45. The prospects for mobilizing domestic private finance must therefore be examined. Financial inclusion, effective regulatory frameworks and financial innovation could be better leveraged to access that source. However, for many developing countries, that would require increased levels of domestic savings and further development of their local capital markets. Money alone would not be sufficient; the quality of financing was critical to catalyse positive outcomes across multiple Goals.

46. His Government had approved a road map for the implementation of the Goals which outlined critical steps, aligned with national priorities. The real challenge was to implement policies and programmes that would trigger fast and sustained progress in the context of fiscal limits. It would be important to prioritize catalytic actions that could drive progress across multiple goals and targets simultaneously.

47. **Mr. Andambi** (Kenya) said that climate change was disrupting the livelihoods of millions of people in his region and leading to conflicts over dwindling natural resources, particularly arable land and water; annually, it was costing Kenya approximately 3 per cent of its gross domestic product. To address climate change, more Member States were urged to take part in the third meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, scheduled to take place in December 2017 in Nairobi. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the recognition of UN-Habitat as the focal point on

sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

48. The mainstay of the Kenyan economy, agriculture, provided jobs for over 80 per cent of the country's rural population. His Government was therefore prioritizing agriculture as a means of achieving national development, with interventions including, inter alia, subsidized farm inputs, improvements to rural infrastructure, and revival and expansion of existing irrigation programmes.

49. In view of the critical role of the financial system in economic development, his Government's national development plan, Vision 2030, envisaged an innovative and globally competitive financial sector that would mobilize savings to support investment. Domestic resource mobilization was essential for sustainable development; Governments should find new actors who could play a role in that area. Meanwhile, developed countries must meet their ODA commitments. His Government had mobilized domestic resources in various ways, notably through a tax modernization programme designed to increase tax revenue. His delegation welcomed the strengthened representation of developing countries in the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, and looked forward to the establishment of an intergovernmental body for tax matters.

50. His Government continued to invest in the growing ICT sector. A national Ministry for ICT had been established and most government services were now accessible online.

51. It was important to remember that South-South cooperation was a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation. The two must be coordinated to ensure that development cooperation was effective. His Government remained committed to the principles of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. In May 2017, it had hosted a technical workshop on South-South and triangular cooperation.

52. In September 2017 Kenya had taken part in the Development Cooperation Forum High-level Symposium; it looked forward to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in January 2019. In view of the importance of trade for growth and sustainable development, Member States should actively participate in the eleventh Ministerial Conference of WTO.

53. **Mr. Khiari** (Tunisia) said that his country had undergone a historic process culminating in the adoption of a modern, progressive Constitution and free, transparent elections, a transformation which was being consolidated through multiple reforms. Tunisia had joined the Open Government Partnership, a programme designed to increase government transparency, as well as taking other steps towards Sustainable Development Goal 16, which concerned effective and accountable institutions.

54. Tunisia sought to establish an equitable and transparent economic system that would allow it to respond to regional and global challenges. The adoption of a development plan for the period 2016–2020 was its first step towards such a transformation of its economy. The Sustainable Development Goals had been incorporated into the development plan, which was designed to integrate the different regions of Tunisia through infrastructure modernization, promotion of investment, facilitation of young people's access to decent work, reinvigoration of manufacturing industries and promotion of knowledge and the digital economy. Under the plan, Tunisia would also become a regional platform connecting Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

55. Poverty eradication and building a fair, equitable, inclusive and peaceful world still remained remote prospects, despite progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Development partnerships must be reinvigorated to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, it was vital to help countries in transition to surmount their economic difficulties and concomitant social pressures. The global partnership for development should not only provide financing, but should support industrialization, infrastructure development, investment and technology transfer. Cooperation to combat illicit financial flows, tax evasion and corruption, as well as political and judicial cooperation to facilitate the recovery of funds, must be strengthened.

56. Convinced that development would be impossible without the empowerment of women and young people, his Government continued to fight for gender equality, and human rights in general. Sport also had a major contribution to make to development and peace. Tunisia was prioritizing education, health and employment in order to create a better future. His Government supported the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and called for UN-Habitat to be strengthened so that it could better perform its role.

57. **Mr. Altınörs** (Turkey) said that while financing for development, technology transfer and South-South cooperation were all needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda, ODA was the largest and most critical source of

financing. Over the past 15 years, Turkey had been a reliable development partner, providing both development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. According to preliminary data for 2016 its ODA had reached $6.2 billion, exceeding the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Humanitarian crises in the region and other parts of the world had forced it to increase the share of humanitarian assistance in ODA. In view of the importance of addressing the specific needs and challenges of the countries in special situations, Turkey delivered approximately 20 per cent of its ODA, excluding humanitarian aid, to least developed countries. Turkey was the host country for the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, and it had committed to contributing $2 million annually for five years to the Bank; it was also providing premises, utilities and a number of personnel free of charge. Traditional and other development partners were urged to support the Bank as early as possible. Turkey would be hosting the Global South-South Development Expo 2017 in November 2017.

58. With regard to social inclusion and protection, which featured prominently in the 2030 Agenda, Turkey had social assistance programmes in place, targeting principally low-income and vulnerable segments of society. His Government also supported the personal and professional development of young persons, including through youth employment and labour market integration policies. Policies to empower women and girls and increase women's labour force participation had been yielding positive results.

59. The United Nations had a leading role to play in increasing the efficiency of global water governance, as per Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals; existing United Nations entities had the capacity to effect a wide range of solutions. Despite progress towards Goal 7, concerning universal access to sustainable energy, 1.2 billion persons around the world still had no access to electricity. Investment in the energy sector was critical; Turkey supported the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

60. Regional cooperation was required to develop data-informed strategies to mitigate the effects of sand and dust storms, which posed a great challenge to sustainable development. The transboundary nature of those storms necessitated comprehensive efforts by the source and affected countries. In that connection, his Government deeply appreciated the programmes and projects being implemented by various United Nations bodies to address the phenomenon, which affected his country.

61. Lastly, major improvements to the United Nations development system were needed to make the 2030 Agenda a reality. His Government therefore fully supported the reform process, led by the Secretary-General, designed to make the system more effective, efficient, coherent and accountable. That process must be carried out in a transparent, inclusive and well-coordinated manner.

62. **Mr. Daunivalu** (Fiji) said that a balanced and integrated approach was needed to ensure that small island developing States like Fiji were able to achieve sustainable social, economic and environmental development. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), which provided for strengthened partnerships between small island developing States and the international community, should guide United Nations work on the three development pillars. As outlined in the Samoa Pathway, financing mechanisms to address the particular development challenges faced by those States as a consequence of natural disasters must be put in place.

63. Effective development financing, universal education, technology transfer and durable partnerships, as well as robust monitoring and review of progress, were essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In connection with monitoring, he highlighted the importance of the voluntary national review process, and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals" (E/2017/66), which provided an overview of progress.

64. Member States should ensure that they followed through on the voluntary commitments made at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and that they maintained the momentum created by the Call for Action. A multi-stakeholder approach was needed to tackle the threats to the world's oceans, which impacted all countries. The health of the oceans was closely linked to climate change, which affected countries indiscriminately, even though some bore a greater share of the responsibility than others. As the President of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, Fiji encouraged the Committee to explore innovative approaches, technologies, financing and partnerships to

accelerate climate action and build a more resilient ocean sector.

65. **Mr. Barro** (Senegal) said that for the 2030 Agenda to be a success, the global economic governance system must be adapted to meet current challenges; predictable and efficient financing must be provided, through multi-stakeholder partnerships established on the basis of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and public and private investment must be promoted, ensuring that funding was aligned with countries' development priorities. It also remained crucial for the developed countries to meet their ODA targets, and for illicit financial flows and tax fraud and evasion, which constituted serious hindrances to development, to be addressed.

66. Greater transparency in the management of the extractive industries, innovative development financing mechanisms alongside reinvigorated South-South and triangular cooperation, reinforced collaboration with multilateral and regional development banks, and the strengthening of technology transfer and capacity-building were all needed. Sovereign debt must be made more manageable through facilitated access to credit, debt alleviation and simplification of financing procedures.

67. National ownership was key to the success of the 2030 Agenda. His Government had reoriented its national policy to better align it with global goals; the focus of national policy was on integrated poverty-reduction strategies, designed both to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable groups, especially women and young people, and to spur economic growth. A range of programmes for inclusive and sustainable economic growth were being implemented under the current national development plan.

68. The actions related to adaptation, financing, technology transfer and capacity-building outlined in the Paris Agreement must be taken, on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The current migration crises, which were causing innumerable human tragedies, required an urgent collective response. Natural disasters, the degradation of land and other natural resources, and global warming threatened billions of lives, and the Earth itself. Faced with such a bleak prospect, Member States must rise to the challenges in their path, decisively translating commitments into actions.

69. **Ms. Jemuovic** (Serbia) said that her country's development strategy was based on poverty eradication, employment generation, inclusivity, quality education, and health care, on a foundation of peace. Policies centred on economic growth and employment, especially youth employment, had yielded significant results in the past few years. Her Government was also focused on gender equality and eliminating violence against women and girls, as well as creating an inclusive society, with respect for the rule of law and justice for all.

70. Her Government had established an inter-sector working group to implement the 2030 Agenda at the national level. The working group was charged with updating the national sustainable development strategy, prioritizing and nationalizing the Sustainable Development Goals, monitoring implementation, coordinating the work of relevant agencies and preparing national reports, including the voluntary national review. With the United Nations country team, the working group was planning to convene a regional conference at which neighbouring countries would share their experiences of implementing the Goals. In May 2016 her Government had concluded a five-year United Nations Partnership for Development Framework with the United Nations country team; the Framework provided a road map for the promotion of good governance and the rule of law, development of social and human resources, economic development, growth and employment, protection of the environment, responding to climate change, building resilient communities and integrating culture into the process of sustainable development.

71. Cognizant of the grave threat posed by climate change and the need for mitigation and adaptation, Serbia had ratified the Paris Agreement. Her Government also believed that a comprehensive solution that addressed the root causes of the ongoing refugee and migrant crisis must be found. Lastly, her delegation welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General on reform of the United Nations; specifically, the proposed reform of its development system was essential for a coordinated approach to capacity-building.

72. **Mr. Mebarki** (Algeria) said that two years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a consensus on how to better integrate the global financial and trading systems had yet to be reached, even within the Committee. Trade, finance and development could not be addressed in a fragmented manner. Trade was an engine for growth, and indirectly enhanced productivity; it also had distributional effects, including on employment. His delegation urged the Secretary-General to explore the links between trade and investment when drawing up reports and to provide guidelines in that regard. It was pleased to see IMF evolve away from its traditional concern with international financial flows and budget reductions

towards addressing political developments — including some in advanced countries — that had the potential to hamper international economic integration. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council would continue to pursue its deliberations on integrating economic and development policies.

73. The United Nations development system needed to be tailored to countries' needs, particularly the needs of developing countries. Accountability and transparency were key components of an efficient reform process, as was ensuring adequate human, financial and logistical resources. Any reform effort should seek to improve the capacity of the existing system.

74. **Ms. Vives Balmaña** (Andorra) said that huge challenges remained in the area of education, such as the need to achieve universal literacy. Changes such as urbanization, the opening of markets, and the digital revolution made a high-quality education, as stipulated in Sustainable Development Goal 4, essential; education had a cross-cutting impact and, especially when oriented towards development, could provide a foundation from which to work towards the other Sustainable Development Goals.

75. The national Constitution of Andorra codified the duty to bequeath a well-preserved environment to future generations. To meet that commitment, her Government was taking action to protect biodiversity and the countryside. It was concentrating on using clean and renewable sources of energy, and on innovation, and was promoting environmentally friendly technologies such as electric and driverless vehicles. Schools were allies in the fight against climate change because they could foster good practices, which would then be disseminated. Gender equality was an immutable principle; every effort must be made to achieve women's and girls' empowerment through training and their inclusion in every aspect of economic life.

76. All countries must respond to changing conditions in a world that was interconnected, transparent, competitive and home to a young population. Her Government had created a public agency to identify emerging economic sectors and guide companies' work in those areas. The agency focused especially on finding viable income-generating sectors for a country which, despite being inaccessible by air or rail, still relied heavily on tourism as a source of revenue.

77. The ongoing reform of the United Nations development system was essential in view of the diversity and complexity of the issues being dealt with by the Organization; the changes should not only improve functioning but also boost the system's response capacity.

78. **Mr. Sisilo** (Solomon Islands) said that although his country's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions was extremely small, the Solomon Islands had set itself ambitious nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement. In terms of renewable energy, his Government had decided to concentrate on solar and water energy. Energy technologies for the Solomon Islands must be: able to withstand cyclones and hurricanes, resilient in a highly corrosive environment, able to provide power to remote locations, and low-maintenance, without the need for highly trained technical support. Finding viable technologies was therefore extremely difficult, and strong support from donors in the area of renewable energy development was needed. Providing clean drinking water was an ongoing challenge, particularly for the country's coral atolls and artificial islands, where sources of fresh water were very limited. Improved water catchment and storage was critical, especially in the light of the prediction of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that droughts would become longer and more severe.

79. Providing healthy food was also fraught with difficulty. Solomon Islanders had traditionally relied on fish as their primary source of protein, but fish supplies were in jeopardy: changes in water temperature were expected to cause tuna to move eastward in the Pacific, away from the most westerly Pacific countries. His country needed to find food crops that were resistant to drought and saltwater intrusion. Furthermore, globalization meant that unhealthy foodstuffs were being imported into the country, one of the reasons many citizens suffered from non-communicable diseases like diabetes, heart disease and renal problems.

80. For the Solomon Islands, like all other small island developing States, climate change had many impacts, including severe weather events, rising sea temperatures and coral bleaching, ocean acidification, rising sea levels, increased numbers of disease-carrying insects and depleted fish stocks. Adaptation was complex and therefore a national plan was needed — such a plan should provide for improvements to coastal infrastructure, as well as protection of coral reefs and their inclusion in marine protected areas, to ensure that enough species of coral were left so that some would evolve and adapt to higher water temperatures. Better health care, research to find drought- or salt-tolerant crops, and early warning systems were needed.

81. Regardless of efforts, climate change would continue to have an impact, making recovery systems essential. Special climate change disaster funds and regional climate change insurance schemes must be established in order to ensure that recovery costs were shared. The Paris Agreement and other relevant international agreements must be translated into action on the ground to help rural communities in countries such as his, which suffered some of the worst climate change-related devastation.

82. **Ms. Nason** (Ireland) said that a strong and confident multilateral system was needed to achieve the ambitious targets that Member States had set themselves in the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Ireland welcomed the progress made on implementing the recommendations of the comprehensive quadrennial policy review, as well as the ongoing reforms of the United Nations development system. Her Government attached particular importance to the coherence, effectiveness and accountability of the United Nations at the country level and looked forward to proposals for improving action on the ground, where it mattered most.

83. Ireland was proud to be associated with the recently launched European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls. Her Government looked forward to the opportunity to advance gender equality that would be afforded by Ireland's chairpersonship of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2018–2019. Gender equality remained a major pillar of her country's development policy.

84. Ireland was a small island State that had suffered devastating famine in the mid-nineteenth century, but had become the world's leading country in terms of food security, a transformation that continued to inform its foreign and development policy. Its priorities were to contribute to the elimination of hunger, stronger resilience, sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. The interconnected challenges relating to climate change, migration, humanitarian crises, inclusive economic growth and leaving no one behind demanded a global effort to find solutions to those problems, which impacted all of humanity.

85. **Ms. Aldahmani** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country had established a committee to formulate a comprehensive national plan that brought together all sectors in support of Sustainable Development Goals, in coordination with international efforts. Internationally, the United Arab Emirates had strengthened its partnerships with the international community with a view to promoting sustainable development in all its aspects. It played a strategic role as one of the most important donor countries, and contributed to development projects all around the world. In 2016, it had contributed over $6 billion, or 1.12 per cent of its gross national income, as development assistance. Her country had also adopted an innovative approach in documenting foreign aid in order to measure progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, among which Goals 1, 8 and 17 received an estimated 70 per cent of total foreign aid.

86. She expressed her delegation's support for the Secretary-General's efforts to make the United Nations development system more transparent, effective and efficient, and stressed the importance of mainstreaming gender into the reform process, especially for leadership posts.

87. **Mr. Costa Chaves** (Timor-Leste) said that Timor-Leste had made significant progress since regaining its independence 15 years earlier. Driven by the goal of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2030, it was embarking on a development process guided by its Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030. His Government had established a working group for the Sustainable Development Goals, which had aligned the Strategic Development Plan with the 2030 Agenda. The Plan focused on four major areas, namely the development of social capital, the economy, infrastructure and an institutional structure.

88. Timor-Leste was seeking to reduce its dependence on oil by developing its agriculture and tourism sectors. Its sustainable development priorities were creating jobs for young people (more than 70 per cent of its population was younger than 25), building labour skills, developing strategic industries, with a special focus on private sector development to boost small and medium-sized enterprises, improving infrastructure to support rural development and increasing the efficiency of public service delivery.

89. In May 2017 Timor-Leste had hosted a conference entitled "Global Conference on the 2030 Agenda: A Roadmap for SDGs in Fragile and Conflict-affected States". The conference had led to the adoption of a road map for 2017, based on five enabling elements: inclusion, awareness and engagement; effective institutions and decentralization; integrated planning, budgeting and monitoring; a future financing framework; and transformative partnerships.

90. Partnerships at all levels between Governments, the private sector and civil society, based on a people- and planet-centred vision, would be fundamental for the

success of the 2030 Agenda. It was important to address the special needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States, and countries emerging from conflict, in conflict or experiencing fragility; in that regard, the proposal for a Global Financing Pact was welcome. Financial resources must be mobilized to support developing countries in the form of long-term investment, including foreign direct investment, that was vital for sectors such as sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, and ICT.

91. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that, around the world, political, cultural and social institutions were increasingly confronted with the effects of a global economic system that failed to recognize the centrality of the human person. The consequences of such failures could be seen in the desperation of people who risked their lives in search of a better future, the paradox of the homeless squatting under the shadows of glitzy skyscrapers in the world's wealthiest cities, the continuously widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, the struggle among the most deprived sections of the population for the most basic services and the increasing politicization and polarization surrounding many issues. Although the Sustainable Development Goals provided a target to guide efforts, a renewed vision and foundation were needed. Political, economic and civil society leaders must recommit to building global and local communities centred on the human person. The overall theme of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, "Focusing on People — Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for All on a Sustainable Planet", should facilitate a refocusing of efforts, to help everyone without exception live peaceful, decent and healthy lives.

92. A person-centred approach affirmed inclusion, unique and inviolable dignity, and freedom. Individual short-term economic or political gain must no longer come at the expense of integral human development. Integral human development meant integrating the different peoples of the Earth, so that through solidarity resources could be shared and inequality eliminated; integrating the economic, cultural, social, familial and religious components of life; integrating the individual and the community, so that they were no longer in competition; and integrating the physical and spiritual aspects of the human person, because development did not consist simply of the accumulation of wealth. Integrated human development required macroeconomic, social and environmental policies that responded holistically to the human person's interconnected needs. Such efforts must be fostered from within communities, with the international community stepping in to provide political, financial and technical support where necessary.

93. Renewed commitment to integral human development would not only support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, but would also lay the foundations for the discussions on the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the global compact on refugees. Faith in multilateral cooperation must be rekindled. The Holy See stood ready to work to realize the vision of global development rooted in the centrality and dignity of the human person.

94. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that climate change was having dire effects on the most vulnerable groups and spurring mass migrations. Africa suffered from illicit financial flows and debt problems. The quest for an international consensus on the necessary means and mechanisms for confronting such problems was at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

95. The impossibility of separating development from politics was exemplified by the Palestinian situation. The Palestinian capital East Jerusalem was completely isolated by checkpoints, and the total siege on the Gaza Strip continued to cut off access to foreign markets. Palestine lacked control of its water resources and did not even have its own currency. The Israeli occupation persisted with its policy of ethnic cleansing and continued its construction of the separation wall despite the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice ruling that the construction of the wall was illegal. One could not speak about development for Palestine when its economy remained dependent on an Israeli economy where per capita income was 11 times that of Palestinians.

96. Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements, including in East Jerusalem, had no legal validity and constituted a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution, and called upon all States to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. One way for Member States to express their support for development and peace was to close their borders to settlers and the goods they produced in the territory of the State of Palestine, and to prohibit their companies from investing in the illegal Israeli settlements.

97. **Mr. de Looz Karageorgiades** (Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta) said that the mission of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta was to provide assistance to those in distress, regardless of religion, race, origin or age. The Order had noted with satisfaction the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China reaffirming the Group's principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence in relation to the provision of humanitarian assistance, as well as promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law, a stance which coincided with the official position of the Order.

98. An international economic environment conducive to just and sustainable monetary, financial and trade systems was key for development. International trade should be an engine for development, and ODA should likewise play a major role, including in settling foreign debt. The Order was active in over 120 countries, aided by its diplomatic relations with 106 States. It would continue to do what it had done for more than 900 years: assist the poor and most vulnerable and work with the international community to make decisive contributions to sustainable development and respect for human rights and dignity.

99. **Ms. Muraki Gottlieb** (Observer for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)) said that her organization was participating in the Committee's deliberations for the first time, having been granted observer status in December 2016. However, ICC had been active in international forums since 1920, when it had been accredited by the League of Nations to participate in economic conferences as the representative of business. In 1946 it had been granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, after which it had participated in numerous events and conferences on capacity-building in the areas of trade, investments and vital global issues, with a focus on engaging business communities around the world in fighting poverty and advancing economic growth, particularly in developing countries.

100. For some time, ICC had played an important role in various United Nations conferences and committees. Almost 100 years had passed since ICC had been founded, in 1919, and it now had over 6 million members in 120 countries; however its goal, promoting open international trade and investment systems to foster the economic growth of developing and developed States alike with a view to peace and prosperity, had not changed. It was grateful for the opportunity to enhance the participation of the private sector at the United Nations with the collective goal of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

101. **Mr. Kuleshov** (Observer for the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)) said that CFC worked to create sources of sustainable income for the most vulnerable developing countries. Its target beneficiaries were consistently disadvantaged in global trade due to volatile prices, currency fluctuations and expectations regarding quantity, quality and availability of supplies. Its primary goal was to leverage development funding in the form of private sector investment.

102. Sustainable Development Goal 17, on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, required the harmonization of financing from all sources. A recent assessment had shown that the growth of private sector investment, or impact investment, was constrained by a lack of instruments for investment. There was a gap between the resources available to be invested in the 2030 Agenda and the availability of projects which could effectively use those resources; CFC sought therefore to bridge the gap to enable all partners to invest in the Sustainable Development Goals. The Fund was currently concluding a reform process which had enabled it accommodate new forms of development partnerships, so that all participants in global commodity value chains could more effectively reap the benefits of commodity production and trade.

103. From 2013 to the current time, the Fund had financed 64 projects, with a total value of $468.1 million — of which it had contributed about 10 per cent, the amount needed to facilitate private sector investment. Furthermore, the Fund had entered into partnership with seven impact investment funds which together commanded a total of some $600 million. Its work testified to the feasibility of using public funds to create attractive opportunities for impact investors who had the capacity to commit much greater resources to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

104. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that FAO had mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals into its programme of work and budget, and would thenceforth report on its work in relation to 15 of the Goals. The world was facing complex challenges that required an integrated response. Alarmingly, following years of reduction, the number of chronically undernourished persons had risen from 2015 to 2016, from 777 million to 815 million. Conflict, weak institutional capacities, climate-related shock and economic slowdown were some of the causes. The 2017 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report tracked progress towards targets 1 and 2 of

Sustainable Development Goal 2, on ending hunger and ending malnutrition, respectively, and considered the theme of building resilience for peace and food security.

105. Along with other United Nations entities, FAO had organized an expert group meeting on Sustainable Development Goal 2 in preparation for the high-level political forum, which had resulted in some key messages: it was necessary to adopt a holistic approach to Goal 2 and its targets, as well as to Goal 2 and the 2030 Agenda as a whole, in view of the interdependence of poverty and hunger; food systems must be made more inclusive, sustainable and resilient; rural people must be seen primarily as agents of change, instead of beneficiaries; local needs should guide the use of science, technology and innovation in agriculture, and technological development should build on the knowledge and expertise held by rural and indigenous communities; and inclusive governance mechanisms must be in place to ensure engagement in policy making and promote accountability. Lastly, delegations were urged to attend the observance of World Food Day on 16 October.

106. **Mr. Ahmad** (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) said that the success of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement would require integrated implementation of the universally agreed commitments and goals. In the meantime, the earth systems that provided the socioeconomic basis for human survival continued to be pushed to their tipping points, as the rate of consumption of natural resources accelerated and intensified. The previous three years had been the warmest on record. Droughts, storms and floods were on the increase. In the summer of 2017, small island developing States in the Caribbean had withstood the fury of several hurricanes.

107. Nevertheless, it was still possible to transform those tipping points into turning points by decoupling economic development from environmental degradation. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was a model for the kind of success that could be achieved when political will, science-based policy making, attention to the concerns of both developed and developing countries, integration across sectors, and technological innovation were all brought together in the pursuit of a goal. Those factors were all present in the design of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

108. Along with the high-level political forum, the Committee had a central role in ensuring that integration, universality and partnership were effectively translated into multilateral policymaking. At the previous session, the Committee had played a leading role in negotiations on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development. However, incremental improvements of service delivery to Member States at both the normative and operational levels did not need to wait for completion of the reform process.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.